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UNITED NATIONS NEW AGENDA FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA IN THE 1990s

Letter dated 11 November 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write on behalf of the Presidency of the European Union in connection with the document issued on 7 October 1993 under agenda item 24 of the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session entitled "United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s" (A/48/336 and Corr.1).

The report, which deals with the mobilization of resources, contains in paragraph 25 (pages 11 and 13 of the English text) an interpretation of the table indicating the geographical distribution and share of Development Assistance Committee (DAC) countries' official development assistance to Africa (table 2).

This interpretation indicates the amount of ODA provided to Africa as a percentage of the total amount of bilateral aid. Table 2, on the other hand, refers to the amount of bilateral aid from each donor as a percentage of the total amount of DAC assistance to Africa.

The use of these two different approaches means that there is a substantial under-assessment of the proportion of the total ODA of the donors in question represented by bilateral ODA to Africa.

The figures referred to in paragraph 25 thus give an erroneous view of the relative size of ODA flows to Africa.

We should be grateful if you would review the data on which the paragraph in question is based. Our delegations are at your disposal to provide you with any additional information required.

Given that the debate on ODA flows is a central element in implementation of the New Agenda, it is of the greatest importance for it to be based on accurate information.

We should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the same agenda item as the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/336 and Corr.1).

(Signed) Paul NOTERDAEME
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Belgium
to the United Nations